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ADDRESS OF  
HON. CHARLES J. MCINTIRE  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE  
TOWN HALL  
CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS.  
FEB. 21, 1905.

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Harvard College Library

FROM

The Author.



**With the Compliments of**

**MR. CHARLES J. McINTIRE.**

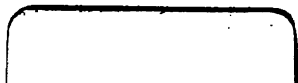
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Harvard College Library

FROM

The Author.









DEXTER MEMORIAL HALL



ADDRESS  
AT THE  
DEDICATION OF THE  
Dexter Memorial Town Hall  
CHARLTON, MASS.  
BY  
HON. CHARLES J. McINTIRE  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY THE  
TWENTY-FIRST  
1905  
WITH EXERCISES, AND AN  
APPENDIX

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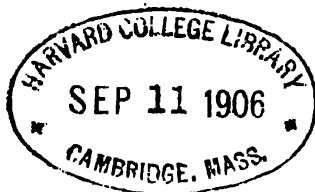
*Chas. J. McIntire*

PRIVATE COPY

1906

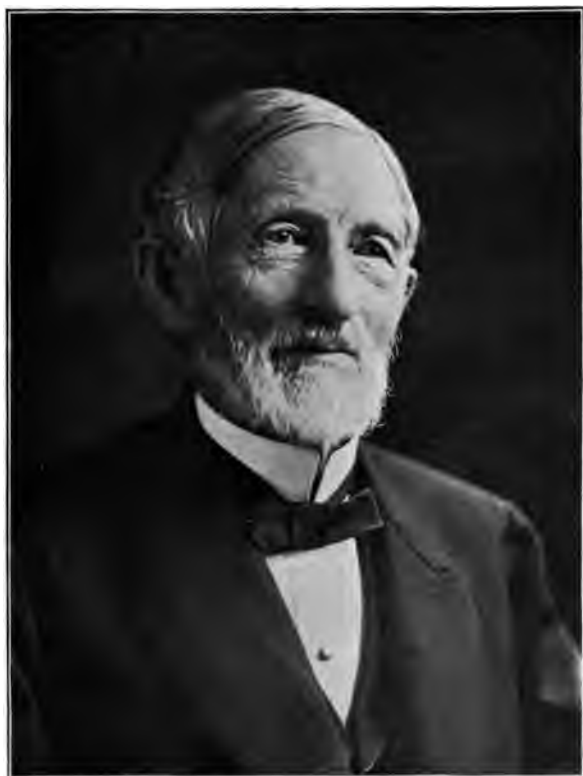
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The Author.





WILLIAM H. DEXTER

# PROGRAMME

## Afternoon

*TWO-THIRTY O'CLOCK*

PRAYER	-	-	REV. GEORGE O. JENNESS
SELECTION	-	-	SCHUMANN QUARTETTE
INTRODUCTORY	-	-	RUFUS B. DODGE
PRESENTATION <i>of Town Hall and Library</i>			
		<i>Building to Charlton</i>	- WILLIAM H. DEXTER
ACCEPTANCE	-		A. FREDERICK PUTNAM <i>Chairman of Selectmen</i>
SELECTION	-	-	SCHUMANN QUARTETTE
ADDRESS	-	-	HON. CHARLES J. MCINTIRE
SELECTION	-	-	SCHUMANN QUARTETTE
BENEDICTION	-		REV. GEORGE H. ROGERS

## Evening

*EIGHT O'CLOCK*

CONCERT	-	-	REEVES' AMERICAN BAND
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*NINE O'CLOCK*

DEDICATION BALL



## Introductory Address by Rufus B. Dodge

**T**HE spreading growth of the colonies settled on the hills of New England. Hardy as the Norseman, bold as the Carthaginian, industrious and indomitable, the Puritan in religion and the patriot in state, leveled the forest, cleared the lands, built towns and villages, while buffeted by hardship and threatened by savages.

Governor Bradford has told of the Plymouth Pilgrims a graphic story of death and misery, most appalling to the present living, all of which had been anticipated before the company started on their journey in search of civil and religious liberty, and in contemplation of which those intrepid spirits said:

“It is not with us as with other men, whom small things can discourage, or small discontentments cause to wish themselves at home again.”

Sickness and exposure had the first season taken one-half the Plymouth Pilgrims, and yet not one of the survivors returned with the ship in the spring. The hearts of the remaining living beat strong with a great purpose, like pulse of ocean tide, impelled by unknown but resistless force to work out Nature's purpose.

The settlement of New England was but an extension of Plymouth's people and those of like fibre and pur-

pose. The hills of Massachusetts became sites of towns and hamlets, cleared by tireless industry, defended by bravery valiant as Caesar's, faithful as Leonidas'. Church, town meeting, and school were the three primal objects of public concern wherever settlements were established. Life itself was not dearer to those people than were these three institutions in which their most earnest interest centered, and which were justly thought to constitute the corner-stone, arch key and crowning protection of their government structure.

Thus was Charlton founded, by men, of quality richer than nobility, more royal in democracy than a king on his throne. On every page of her early records is reflected the essence of self-government by a people of Puritan strictness. Dissimulation in community affairs was unknown. Public deliberation was without favoritism, showing a spirit in ordinary matters surprising but refreshing to our own time. Couched in crude language the recorded votes, however, left no doubt as to meaning or sincerity. The will of a people ruled without a hindrance, lacking no vigor in initiative or execution. The times and vigorous, rugged intellect produced sturdy character. Families carried marked traits through generations because character and mental strength were dominant forces, while weakness, indolence and faint decision were a reproach.

The history of Charlton has been honorable throughout. Her citizens have become known in every business and profession. Her name has been in honor carried across the continent by Towne and around the globe by Morton. She has sent soldiers to fight in every war, citizens to every state. She has seen the



sturdy qualities of the first settlers continued through succeeding generations to this day, guiding true, public affairs down through the course of years. The loom of time is never idle; the busy shuttle of current events flies rapidly, carrying into design strands of the hour, be they strong or weak, but if from the beam of the past there is supplied the honest homespun warp of original New England life, the garment of equal rights will still clothe a people in full splendor of perfect liberty.

With justified pride we are here to receive, at the hands of one whose ancestor felled the first trees and planted the first community on the soil of the town beloved by us all, a gift so munificent and timely, it comes like a rich benediction from a son to his mother. Our benefactor of to-day is worthy of his ancestry. The qualities of his family have not weakened during the many intervening years since Obadiah McIntire, of whom Mr. Dexter is a descendant, built the first house in Charlton.

William H. Dexter was born in the western part of Charlton, January 11, 1823, in a house that has since burned down, but the site of which can still be seen. His father was John B. Dexter, a carpenter and contractor, born in Marlboro, Mass., and his mother was Lucinda McIntire, daughter of Elnathan McIntire, who owned a farm situated about three-quarters of a mile from Charlton City. Early in Mr. Dexter's boyhood his father built a house near Elnathan McIntire's, where the Dexter family lived for four or five years, and then moved to Charlton City, near the David Dodge farm. There the Dexter family lived for several years and then the elder Mr. Dexter purchased a place near

the present hotel in Charlton City on what is now called Main Street. William lived at home and attended the district school until he was about twelve years old, when a man by the name of Steer came from Burrillville, R. I., and took charge of the village hotel. William went to live with him, doing the chores for his board, and attending the district school in the winter, until he was fifteen. Mr. Steer then moved back to Burrillville and opened a country store, taking William with him, who worked in the store summers and attended school there in the winter. At eighteen he came back to Charlton, assisted his father in the grocery store at Charlton City, and attended school during the winter. At nineteen he went to Boston, where he had an uncle and brother living. While in Boston he was taken seriously sick and for nearly seven weeks was dangerously ill. On recovering he came back to his Charlton home for a few weeks and then returned to Boston and entered the employ of Paran Stevens, who had just opened the Newling House, afterwards one of the well-known hotels of Boston. Paran Stevens was one of the best-known hotel men in the United States and amassed a large fortune. He was proprietor of a number of hotels in different cities, and had a great capacity for organizing and conducting business upon a basis which brought him large patronage, as well as yielding him good profits. While he worked for Mr. Stevens, Mr. Dexter undoubtedly gained valuable experience which was of large benefit to him in later life. At the end of three years, Mr. Dexter's health failed him and he came to Worcester, to which place his father had moved, and started a grocery store on Southbridge Street.

In 1847 Mr. Dexter married Eliza A. Foss, a native of Livermore, Maine. One child was born to them, but died in its early infancy. For five years Mr. Dexter conducted a grocery business and then sold out to open a wholesale flour and grain store, in which occupation he continued for twenty years. He was elected vice-president and manager of the First National Fire Insurance Company, which position he held for three years, and then retired. After that Mr. Dexter built what was then one of the finest blocks in the city, at Franklin Square, and it was through his influence that Franklin Square was named. In 1873 he was elected treasurer of the Worcester Academy and since that time has had charge of the financial matters and the construction of new buildings, being treasurer of the institution during most of the time. In 1880 the Worcester Academy had only one building and four acres of land. Now the institution has five modern buildings and thirteen acres of land, and it is generally conceded that owing to Mr. Dexter's conduct of the financial matters, this part of the institution has been developed to its present extent. Mr. Dexter and his wife became members of the Main Street Baptist Church in Worcester in 1855, since which date Mr. Dexter has been on the finance committee and treasurer of the society.

Fifty-seven years ago Mr. Dexter erected the house on Main Street where he now lives. Mr. Dexter's life has been busy and industrious through all these years, and since his marriage, he has had the assistance of a prudent and frugal wife to help him in his efforts to accumulate a fortune which would enable him to exercise that large benevolence upon which his mind has

long centered. Economical and thrifty, with business sagacity developed by hard but wholesome experience, and a capable mind, he has achieved success far beyond the ordinary.

Now turning to review the past, he reads aright life's lesson and crowns that success by an act prompted from motives unselfish as guide the life of a saint. Generous beyond measure of praise is the gift, telling of loyalty to the soil of his birth, unforgotten through toil of long years, shown now as the rich autumn tints and the golden grain of the sheaf reflect the sunshine of a beauteous summer. The gold of life's best possibility is never lost. It does not glisten like the dross and show of cheap commodity, but lies imbedded in the stolid quartz of circumstances, secure from weak and frivolous hands, but yielding its treasure in the fullness of time, unlocked by firm purpose and strong character, when its value to the world is greatest.

Mr. Dexter has labored incessantly during a long and busy life to accumulate means not for himself but for his fellow man, to which end he now gives in full measure. Endowed with courage, keen business judgment, and strictest integrity, he now opens the deeper treasure of his nature, richer far than wealth. His years of activity, disclosed in their true light, stand forth bright with a purpose of broad benevolence which sends its rays into this good old town of Charlton.

Through measureless time may these walls attest his devotion to the town of his boyhood, and recall to the passer a lesson of gratitude, endless and true. You who receive at his hands this building, adapted for all

the needs of a town, deserve the good fortune bestowed. From the hearts of a people genuine and pure comes appreciation measurable with this gift, leaving the giver a debtor still. He shall see for himself how you answer his kindness, and read from your faces thanks surpassing those expressed in the language of words.



## Presentation of Building by William H. Dexter

I AM more than glad that I have lived to see this building which we are now dedicating, completed. The annual home-gathering which we have enjoyed on Labor Day, for the past eight or nine years, has given to many of us a closer connection with our native town, and has been the means of suggesting a way in which this feeling now finds expression. The monument that stands at the entrance of this building is a fitting memorial of nearly two score of Charlton's sons who gave their lives in their country's defense, and will tell to future generations the part this town had in that conflict that preserved the Union and gave liberty to millions of our fellow men.

At first, I thought only of erecting a Library building, but the need of a town hall, and a suitable place for the town officers, seemed to be fully as great, and to accommodate all the people who came to the annual reunion in September, for all these purposes, this building, with its spacious hall, its library, and rooms for the town officers, as well as a commodious dining room, is erected. This building is modern in its construction, is heated with steam, lighted by electricity, and has its own system of water works and sewerage.

Beautiful for situation, it stands not only as an ornament to the town, but shows in its every part the care

with which it has been constructed. Surely the architect, Mr. C. L. Chamberlain, of Frost, Briggs & Chamberlain, planned wisely and well when he conceived this splendid and convenient building. Faithfully and well have those plans been carried out by the builder, Mr. J. G. Vaudreuil. Mr. Vaudreuil, whose work I have known for many years, and has built some of the finest residences and best buildings in central Massachusetts, including three of the finest buildings of the Worcester Academy, under my supervision, was ably assisted in the stone work by Mr. Martin Wilson, who built the monument that stands near the entrance, in furnishing the cut stone in the lower part of the building.

Mr. T. J. McAuliff, the sculptor, who designed the monument and carved the soldier upon it, made the tablet that is in the entrance hall. His work takes a high rank, both as to artistic quality and finish.

From first to last, nothing but the best of material and workmanship has entered into its construction, and it stands, and will stand for years to come, a credit to its builders and an ornament to the town.

I have tried to do something for my native town, and I sincerely hope the town's people will feel a like interest, and constantly seek to improve the common and highways.

This building stands on the site where the old hotel stood for so many years, and where I attended dances in my younger days. I purchased the lot as a site for the monument. And now it gives me great pleasure to present this tract of land, together with the monument and building thereon, to the inhabitants of the town of Charlton, for their use and benefit. Therefore, I give



to you, Mr. Chairman, their representative, this deed, transferring all my right, title and interest to my native town of Charlton, only asking that the grounds and monument be kept in good condition, the building insured for a reasonable amount and kept in good repair, and if damaged by fire or otherwise, to be restored to its present condition.

Please accept this my offering to my native town, and I hope as the years go by it will serve the purpose for which it is intended, and preserve the memory, not only of the donor, but also of those who gave their lives for their country.



## Acceptance for the Town by A. Frederick Putnam

IF WE had been told ten years ago that inside of ten years we would be enjoying the privileges and advantages of one of the best equipped and constructed electric roads in the State of Massachusetts, we should have doubted the proposition with the exclamation, *That is impossible!* To-day, as we observe the cars passing to and fro through the town with clock-like regularity, we have to acknowledge it as a fact and that Charlton is the gainer. Again, if we had been told in the year 1897 that through the results of celebrating Labor Day as our Old Home Day, we would be the recipient of a new town hall, built upon the most modern and improved plans, we would have probably replied, "After we see it, we will believe it." But, ladies and gentlemen, to-day we have assembled here in one of the best town halls located in Worcester County, the gift of one of our fellow and former townsmen, to celebrate this occasion with words of praise and acceptance. If I remember correctly, one year ago last Memorial Day, at the dedication exercises of the Soldiers' Monument which stands in front of this hall, Mr. Dexter quoted from the Bible, saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The very expression on his own face to-day is a positive assurance of that, and it always has been since the

moment he became interested in this good movement for his native town. "From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh." So from the fullness of Mr. Dexter's heart we have this excellent building to remember him by as one of his *many* generous and noble deeds.

As generations come and pass, and as they enter the hallway below and observe the tablet erected by the citizens of this town to perpetuate the donor's memory, we believe they will exclaim with one accord, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

It is an honor, Mr. Dexter, which *I highly appreciate*, that it becomes, not my duty alone, but in behalf of every citizen of this town, great or small, to *thank you* from the depths of our hearts, and trust that through God's guiding hand, you and your companions' lives may be spared for many years yet to enjoy with us not only Old Home Day alone, but that you may *here* enjoy the fruits of your labors every or any day you may desire.

Oh, if the selfish knew how much they lost,  
What would they not endeavor, not endure,  
To imitate, as far as in them lay,  
Him who his wisdom and his power employs  
In making others happy?





HON. CHARLES J. MCINTIRE

## Address of Hon. Charles J. McIntire

**T**HE eve of the anniversary of the birth of the Father of our Country seems a fitting time to dedicate to public use this commodious structure erected and donated by the generosity of a grateful son of Charlton; so we come to assist at the consecration of one more of the many buildings standing in municipal communities throughout our land, which emphasize the fact that self-government is secured to the inhabitants and that perfect freedom is accorded to all citizens in the management and control of their civic affairs.

Our ancestors brought with them across the seas firm and fixed ideas of liberty and polity, and here in the land of their adoption they found full opportunity and a broad field for their free development; and, from the time of their first landing upon our shores, the system of entrusting the direction of local affairs to the local constituencies instead of to a central power, has been firmly and constantly insisted upon by them and by those who have followed them.

The fundamental American idea of government is that from the people comes the source of all political power, and that it is the people alone who have the right to exercise it. This principle was never better nor more tersely stated than by the well-known and oft-

repeated expression of Lincoln at Gettysburg, that we live in "a government of the people, by the people, for the people." Upon this principle of government rests our entire political system, and consequently in every county, city and town in the United States, as well in the newly settled regions of the great West as in the older civilization of the East, there is found freedom of control and self-management by the inhabitants.

An eminent author and authority on municipal law, in speaking of this liberty, truthfully says: "The number and freedom of these local organizations whereby political power is exercised by the citizens of the various local subdivisions of a state who have a right to vote and to regulate their own domestic affairs, constitute a marked feature in our system of government." A town under this system is well defined to be "a community of which the citizens are members of the whole nation, all possessing the same rights and subject to the same burdens, but retaining the administration of law and government in all local matters which concern not the nation at large."

Standing here to-day in the centre of the early settlement, surrounded by her beautiful hills, and gratefully impressed with the inheritance which has come down to us from our ancestors, let us spend a short time looking into the founding and development of this typical New England town.

It was nearly a hundred years after Governor Winthrop and his little fleet of eleven vessels sailed into Salem harbor before the territory occupied by the town of Charlton was given over to settlers. Under a colonial grant, and a purchase from the Indians, all of



that unoccupied land which remained west of the settled tract of about twelve thousand acres of Oxford, called "the village," had been held undivided and for speculative purposes since the year 1682, but after the death of Governor Dudley, who was one of the original proprietors, the Dudley heirs began to sell, in parcels, the portion which had been set off to him in his lifetime by a deed of partition made in 1688, and the demand for these lands by settlers became so great and the sales were so numerous after the year 1721, that ten years later the purchasers procured an act of incorporation as the town of Dudley. In 1727 and 1728 the sales of the Dudley heirs included portions of what is now Charlton, and in those years farm lots, so called, were conveyed to Ebenezer Moulton, Joseph Putney, the brothers Nathan and Daniel Mackintire, and their cousin Obadiah, men of Salem, all of whom took immediate possession of their lands. These five seem to have been the advance guard of the Salem pioneers who took up lands in and near this town. Obadiah was brother of Eleazer and both are direct ancestors of Mr. William H. Dexter, the generous giver of this building. Eleazer came up later, in 1754, became a prominent citizen, was elected upon the first board of school committee, and received other honors at the hands of his fellow citizens.

But it was the division and putting upon the market of the seventeen hundred acre tract of Thomas Freake, who had come into possession in 1688, which gave the great impetus to the settlement of Charlton lands. This tract of Freake included "the Centre," and was conveyed in 1730 to Freake Kitchin, the wife of Edward Kitchin in Salem, who soon afterwards divided it into

equal lots of one hundred acres each, and offered them for sale to neighbors and others who might wish to purchase. These lots were quickly disposed of and there began to come up from the coast hardy yeomen seeking new homes in the wilderness; and along the old "Connecticut path," with their wives and children, their horses, their oxen, their cows and all of their worldly possessions, toiled the grandsons of the Puritans who had been driven from England by the intolerance of King James, side by side with neighbors and friends whose grandsires were Covenanters, exiles from Scotland, who had been deported to this country as prisoners of war by Cromwell after their disastrous defeat and rout at Dunbar and Worcester, where with the second Charles they had striven to put down the Puritan commonwealth and its protector.

These were the pioneers of Charlton. They were men of large frame and stout heart; stern in countenance, but of kindly spirit; dignified, earnest, patient, and industrious; God-fearing and law-abiding; religious and intolerant, but thoroughly just; filled with ideas of individual freedom, but not shrinking from self-sacrifice; with little outward show of affection, yet exhibiting deep sympathy in times of affliction; possessed in fine with all the essential qualities for founding a new and lasting community in the wilderness. Nearly a hundred years before, by this same Indian trail, there had journeyed the pious and beloved Thomas Hooker, on his way from Cambridge to the wilderness in Connecticut, taking his parishioners with him, men, women and children, and his wife on a litter; and, in the language of Winthrop, "they drove one hundred and sixty cattle and partook of their milk

by the way." Thus did our forbears journey before the days of personally conducted tours by Pullman cars and steamboat. The example set by Kitchin was soon followed by the proprietors of the Blackwell, Stoughton, Cox, and Thompson tracts, and before any movement was made toward a separate municipality all of those lands had been thrown open to purchasers. The "Country Gore" on the north did not begin to be settled until about the year 1739.

Thoroughly imbued with their New England ideas, our sturdy pioneers, with an abundance of energy and spirit, set themselves at work without delay to build their homes, level the forest, till the land, lay out roads, support the church and schools. A short time only elapsed before they found themselves subjected to inconveniences caused by their connection with the older settlement of Oxford, and their patience began soon to be sorely tried. They traveled over rough roads a distance of about ten miles to attend church and town meetings; they were compelled to pay for the support of schools at the village, which were so far from their homes as to be of little or no benefit to their children; and, what was to them exceedingly aggravating, the absent proprietors of the large undivided tracts by which they were surrounded, put cattle upon the open lands to graze, so that the improved and cultivated farms were overrun, trampled upon and destroyed, with little chance of interference, for the town pound was so far away that it was well nigh impossible to drive the beasts there to be impounded.

These and similar grievances became harder to bear after it was seen that they were disregarded by the people of the village, who outnumbered them at town

meeting and were heedless of their loss and discomfort. When it became necessary to build a new meeting-house for the town, in order to replace the old one, the people of the new settlement thought that such would afford an opportunity to place it in a location where it would be more convenient to them, and, in order to show their generosity of spirit, and a desire to assist in its erection beyond the amount which they could be called upon to contribute, they procured sufficient timber for its construction, and also secured promises from some of the land-owners to give the land for its site; but a meeting having been called to consider the matter, of which meeting many were ignorant, much to their chagrin and disquietude, by a preponderating vote the meeting-house was retained at Oxford village.

After a time it became manifest to the settlers that no relief from their inconveniences and troubles could be had except by forming themselves into a separate community, and the question of setting themselves off from Oxford began to be agitated for a considerable period previous to making an application to the General Court. Naturally this idea was opposed vigorously by the citizens of the older part, who had been already deprived, in 1731, of the thriving population of Dudley. Indeed, it would be rare to find such a spirit of self-sacrifice in a community as to view with equanimity a suggestion to deprive it of a large slice of territory, together with a considerable number of tax-paying citizens, and thus throw a greater burden of expense upon those remaining.

By the year 1750, the feeling that they should be made a separate township had become so greatly intensified that a strong petition therefor was prepared

and laid before the town. A meeting was held on May 17th of that year, and, after much discussion, a vote was passed consenting to a set-off of all the lands which were west of a line *two* miles west of the village line, provided that the people of the Gore should join with them. This vote did not prove at all satisfactory to the petitioners, for they believed that the line of division should be not more than a single mile from the village, so they refused to accept the offer, and, upon June 12th of the same year, prepared a petition signed by seventeen of the principal citizens of the new settlement and nine of those of the Gore, and they presented this to the General Court. The petition prayed that the citizens of the westerly portion of the town, together with those of the Gore "from a line drawn north and south one mile west of the village, with all the Gore lying off even against these lands," be set off to form a new township. The petition moreover stated that a part of the signers did not belong to any town whatsoever, and that the other part were not in the least regarded by those who lived in the village of Oxford when they selected a location for their new meeting-house; and further, that "it would be a great advantage to be put in such circumstances that they might have the worship of God set up amongst them."

The town, however, was able to prevent the granting of their desire, and the agitation still continued. In 1754 another petition was presented to the town at the March meeting, which was voted down, but, undismayed, on March 27th, a new petition to the General Court was signed by thirty-seven inhabitants asking for relief. Among the many grievances recited at length in their new petition, they say plaintively, "We

were disheartened, and as we had got timber for our meeting-house and were much encouraged by the gentlemen owning land here, who offered to give the glass and nails; but being taxed so high for building the meeting-house and finishing it in the best manner, equal if not better than any in this country; and many of us not knowing anything of the town meeting when the grant was made; and our paying for the support of the schools in town and having but little benefit therefrom," etc.

It is noticeable that in this petition the people of the Gore did not join, also that it failed to ask that the lands of the Gore be included in the new township prayed for. And it is further noticeable, showing that there was some difference of opinion, that the names of seven of the Oxford inhabitants who had signed the petition of four years previous did not appear upon this.

The ill feeling over the hardship of attending meetings at Oxford village must have commenced shortly after the settlement upon the Freake lands, for we find evidence as early as 1741 of the existence of such between the two portions of the town so widely separated. In that year a respectable citizen at the Charlton end, so the record shows, evidently purposely absented himself from public worship—a more serious misdemeanor then than now—and he was duly summoned to appear and account for his misconduct before the Court of Sessions. There he pleaded that he lived at the westerly end of the town, a very great distance from the meeting-house, and that the roads were very poor so that it was well nigh impossible for him to get to the place of worship from his home. But

notwithstanding this excuse and explanation, which seems to us to have been quite reasonable, he was not permitted to go without payment of the costs of the prosecution. Feeling a sense of injury over the imposition of costs, he refused to pay them and suffered himself to be committed to jail rather than do so.

This man at the time was forty years of age and a tax-payer, with a wife and children. He was a respected citizen and one of those who came up from Salem with the settlers in 1734, and took a farm. We find him among those who were most active in endeavoring to set off a new town, and his name appears upon the several petitions therefor to the General Court. He was no law-breaker, but, with his sense of justice, and being made of the stuff of which the early Pilgrims were composed, for the purpose of emphasizing his sense of injury, rather than admit himself to have been in the wrong, he would submit to any punishment imposed. It is told that his neighbors, whose cause he was representing, paid the costs to release him, and it appears that he was soon discharged from custody.

But the time had arrived when the town became unable to defeat further the desires of the petitioners, and a favorable report was made upon their last petition by a committee of the General Court. On Friday, the tenth day of January, 1755, an act was duly passed setting off the inhabitants of the westerly part of Oxford, from a line one mile west of the village line, but not including the Gore, and establishing the territory as the "District of Charlton." So that after many years of persistent effort their labors were crowned at last with success. No longer would they

be obliged to plod wearily over miles of bad roads to public worship on Sundays, nor on secular days to attend to the affairs of the town; henceforward they would be able to fix their own tax rates, manage their own schools, build their own roads. Surely this was a day for rejoicing.

Let us picture in our minds the committee of citizens who, in the interest of this enactment, have been at Boston in daily attendance upon the General Court, anxiously watching the progress of the bill while it was discussed. What sympathy we have with them in their great pleasure as it passed its several readings up to the time of its final engrossment. With what anxiety they awaited the signature of Governor Shirley which finally made it a law. How delighted they felt when informed that it had been written and that the seal of the province was affixed.

No wire had yet been stretched along the highways leading out from the capital over which by telephone or telegraph they might instantly convey the welcome news to those awaiting. No railroad had been laid over which they might have sped rapidly home with the good tidings. Even the roads were then so primitive that vehicles had to be driven very carefully over them to avoid accident. Our committee came on horseback, as most people then did when they carried no burdens, and, being impatient to carry the news, they saddle their horses and push out over "the Neck" into the forest. It is dark when they start, but the ground being white with snow, which lies deep in the roads, serves to lighten their path. They put up at the village tavern in Framingham for the night, but are up early on Saturday and continue their journey.



As they approach the settlement they are met by eager ones on the lookout awaiting them, and these, receiving the welcome news, scatter to announce it to their neighbors. Word is passed from house to house of the good tidings, and great rejoicing abounds. Quiet only comes with the setting sun, which marks the beginning of the New England Sabbath, and the time for rest and prayer.

It may be asked why Charlton was at first created a district and not a town. It was for the reason that it was against the policy then to increase the number of representatives to the General Court, therefore most of the new municipalities created were made districts, to which was accorded every authority, privilege and immunity of a town excepting that of electing a representative. Soon after the beginning of the Revolutionary War, however, believing that the districts too should be permitted to take part in the important discussions of policy in conducting the defense of the country, a general act was passed transforming all existing districts into towns with right of representation, and on August 23d, 1775, in accordance with that enactment, Charlton then became a town.

On February 10th, 1755, by the authority of the General Court, a warrant was issued by Moses Marcy to John Dresser, as a principal inhabitant, requiring the latter to notify the residents of the district to assemble for the purpose of choosing their officers. They were called accordingly and notified to meet at the dwelling house of Ebenezer Mackintire on Wednesday, March 12th. This house was the village tavern, and it stood here in "the Centre," a little distance south of the spot where we are assembled. It was conveniently lo-

cated and continued to be used for all the public meetings of the inhabitants, both civil and religious, down to the completion of their meeting-house in 1761.

Come with me and look on in fancy at the assembling of the electors, and the birth of a town at a little village inn, in the early days of our history. It is March, the snows are still upon the ground and the sharp, biting winds come whistling through the trees and sweeping down the sides of old Mashamugget; but the sun shines clear in the skies while the voters of the new district are gathering, some on foot and others riding or driving in their rude sleds and other vehicles. The genial tavern-keeper, with his sons, is on hand to welcome and greet his neighbors and to assist them in sheltering their horses. Notwithstanding his fifty-five years, he is a fine specimen of the early settlers. With the fair complexion of his Scotch ancestors, he stands four inches over six feet in height, and is broad of shoulder, and rugged like the oaks upon his farm. With his own hands he has cleared and broken his lands, felled and hewn the logs of his first dwelling, and to-day is ready and well equipped to take such part as may be assigned to him in the building of a new municipality.

After seeing to their horses, the people as they arrive pass into the house, where a fire of logs in the huge chimney-place sends a glow of cheerful warmth and comfort throughout the public room prepared for their meeting. About forty have obeyed the precept, and, as they stand in groups awaiting the call to order, they would be noticeable anywhere as examples of hearty, vigorous and intelligent manhood. All are yet in the prime of life, and being enured to hardship and privations by years of struggle, each has devel-

oped into a sturdy, self-reliant citizen imbued with high ideals of citizenship.

Promptly, when the hour has arrived, John Dresser calls them to order and reads the warrant. While he is engaged in this, let us look about us and see who some of these people are who have come to elect their magistrates and organize a town government. Over there in the most distant corner, with Moses Aborn, stand together Ebenezer and James Lamb, grandsons of one of the early English settlers of the old town of Oxford. They are two of seven brothers, all stout of heart and strong of limb, of whom it is told that "they can raise a forty-foot barn," calling upon none other for assistance. The descendants of these Lamb brothers are destined to become among the most noted of Charlton's citizens. Near to these, somewhat to the right, are the three sons of Richard Blood of Bellingham, Nathaniel, Isaiah and Richard, persistent men, every one of whom has been earnest and active in the movement for a new town. Beyond stand Solomon Harwood, Ebenezer Twiss and James Twiss, a resolute trio who came together from Salem in 1741 and took one of the Kitchin farms. A little behind these and nearer to where we are, is William Alton, a settler of martial bearing from Connecticut, the father of Benjamin Alton, who before long is destined to honor his town as a brave captain in the Revolution, and in his group stands Richard Dresser, the brother of him who is reading the warrant. Richard has already served Oxford as a selectman, and at this meeting he will be made a selectman and the first district clerk. The Dressers are among the most worthy of the citizens, and their many descendants in the future will reflect

much credit upon the town. Nearer yet to us are Ebenezer Fosket, John Davidson, Thomas Hawkins, Daniel and Paul Rich, in a group with Jonathan and Richard Clemence, all signers and tireless workers in behalf of the petitions for a new township. Fosket will be found later faithfully serving upon the committee of correspondence and safety of the town, with Ezra Mackintire, the son of the tavern-keeper, and the latter will hold the high honor of being chosen as the town's representative and delegate to the convention which will adopt the Constitution of the United States. Somewhat to the left is John Nichols, likewise destined to become a captain and to perform patriotic service in the Revolution. He stands with Samuel Streeter, another one of soldierly bearing who three years hence will be found fighting in the French and Indian War, and with them are Eleazer and Daniel Mackintire, Edward Chamberlain and Daniel Hobbs, sturdy, independent and forceful men. Near these are Jonathan Ballard with the brothers Obadiah and Ebenezer Mackintire, all three of whom before the meeting closes are to be honored by an election to the board of selectmen; and a little removed is John Stevens, the name of whose grandson will soon become famous for his discovery of a means to prevent human agony; and by his side are Nathan and Jesse and Thomas and Job Mackintire, more of the early settlers from Salem and other descendants of Philip of Reading. We see none of the worthy residents of the Gore here at this meeting, as they have not yet been taken into the new community, and the best feeling unhappily does not exist.

But the chairman has finished reading and is calling for a nomination of a clerk to complete the organiza-

tion. Richard Dresser's name is mentioned; he is chosen and takes his seat by the chairman. Nomination for a moderator is made and he is chosen, and then follows the election of the five most prominent citizens as the first board of selectmen, and a clerk, a treasurer and other usual officers are chosen with little opposition. Congratulations are exchanged, and the meeting is adjourned, each departing with feelings of satisfaction that after their many years of struggle, at last they hold the control of affairs in their own hands.

Thus was our town of Charlton started upon her municipal career, which has had an uninterrupted existence for a hundred and fifty years.

On March 27th, schools were provided for by the district, and a month later, on April 28th, the ever troublesome question of a site for their meeting-house was again brought up, when it was voted to erect it at the centre, that being considered most convenient for all the people. The matter of schools received much early attention from the inhabitants, so that within five years after incorporation they had eight school-houses and as many school districts.

In connection with matters of education, the fact that the public library of the town is to have its future home in this building, reminds me that it was in the year 1732, during the period when our pioneers were coming up to occupy Charlton lands, that the first circulating library in the world was established through the efforts of Benjamin Franklin. That library, founded at Philadelphia, gave the example and momentum to all the free public libraries which now so universally exist.

You will have noticed, probably, that the petition of

1754, asking the General Court for a new township, unlike the one preceding it in 1750, failed to ask that the Country Gore be included as a portion of the same. The committee of that body to which the request was committed, however, included the Gore in the bill which it reported, but before the bill became a law it was amended, leaving out that territory. It is evident that there was contention among the people over the matter, and that the change in the petition was an intentional one, for the names of several signers of the first petition do not appear upon the later one, nor do we find upon it the name of any resident at the Gore.

We find, further, that soon after the organization of the new district there is evidence of dissatisfaction among a considerable number of the people who believed it to have been a mistake not to have taken in their neighbors of the Gore. It was claimed that the number of tax-payers incorporated were too few to meet with comfort the necessary charges attendant upon the proper management of a town or district government.

At one of the earliest meetings the question of annexation of the Gore was brought up for discussion, but those opposed to the project proved to be then in the majority, and after an earnest advocacy by those who favored it, on January 1st, 1756, it was voted not to accept the Gore and not to join in a petition asking for its annexation to the district. Yet, before the month had passed they changed their determination and we find that thirty-four out of the fifty-three tax-payers of Charlton joined with thirteen of the Gore, and thirteen non-resident owners of real estate, in a new petition to the General Court for the annexation

of the Country Gore to the district of Charlton. In this memorial they say that "the inhabitants of Charlton are now very sensible that it is wholly impracticable, if not impossible, for them to carry on the affairs of a district, or in any measure support the charge necessarily arising from settling the Gospel among them." And, further, that "the inhabitants of the Gore are so situated that they can't be laid to any town with the least advantage, and are so small as not to be fit for a district by themselves, but if they were added to Charlton they would make a good town or district and be able to support public charges."

This petition was not granted without opposition, arising principally from people living upon the territory which it was proposed to annex; whereupon further notice was ordered and the matter postponed until the session which would meet in the fall. It was June 3d, of the year following, before it received the favorable report of a committee, but shortly afterward the petitioners' prayer was granted and the Gore was incorporated into the district. On the date of annexation there were thirty-nine tax-payers on the Gore, which gave quite a substantial total to the municipality and a generous addition to its resources. And the families which then came in, with their successors, have subsequently reflected the highest credit upon the town.

As soon as the Gore came in, fresh difficulties over the site for a meeting-house arose. On July 28th, 1757, which was the month following the annexation, a committee was appointed to provide preaching, and it was voted, without fixing any particular spot, to build a meeting-house at a convenient place. On November

22d of the same year, finding that there were many minds, and that they were unable to come to any agreement as to what would be a "convenient place" for its site, it was voted to appoint a disinterested committee of three inhabitants of other towns to settle the matter for them, and thereupon Deacon Wheeler of Worcester, Samuel Chandler, Esq., of Woodstock and Col. Hezekiah Sabin of Thompson were selected as impartial persons. They met, and after giving careful thought and consideration to the subject, made a report recommending the location which seemed to them most suitable, but the people were dissatisfied and refused to adopt it, although they did generously vote to pay six shillings and eight pence to Mr. Richard Dresser for the expense which he had been put to in entertaining the committee. Whether suspicions were held that the entertainment afforded by Mr. Dresser was of a nature which tended to prejudice the minds of the committee toward his choice, or whether it was feared that it might in a measure have clouded their intellect, it is too late now for us to speculate upon. Happily the difficulty was soon after settled by an offer from Ebenezer Mackintire to donate an acre of his land, in the most sightly portion of the centre, for the meeting-house and a training field or common, and the people by a vote of two to one accepted the offer. It is but justice to add that the inhabitants of the Gore were generously treated by the district to which they were annexed, for though greatly outnumbered they were accorded at the first meeting two out of the board of five selectmen, and likewise the important office of treasurer.

Any narrative of the principal events connected with



the town would be incomplete without some allusion to its military activities during the wars for the existence of the colonies, and for their liberty and freedom. It is familiar history that difficulties with the French over claims to territory began soon after the first English settlements upon the coast. France, which by her missionaries and colonists had discovered and held the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, and the Great Lakes, claimed ownership of the entire territory west of the Alleghanies, while, on the other hand, England, having occupied the Atlantic coast, made claim to everything which lay west of its settlements, and long before the pioneers came to Charlton there had been constant collisions upon the borders. King William's war, so called, nominally ended in 1697. In 1744 King George's war was declared, and our early Charlton settlers shared in the general excitement which prevailed among the colonists. Some embarked with the forces raised by Governor Shirley for the attack upon Louisburg in 1745, and all rejoiced when that citadel fell. The news of the departure of the great fleet of forty ships of war and three thousand men, which sailed from France June 22d, 1746, to recapture Louisburg and devastate the New England coast, caused great consternation, and an alarm was sent to every town and village to arm and prepare for the attack. Amid great excitement, Charlton, on the 24th of September of that year, sent her militia to Boston with that of the other towns of Worcester County. Quite fortunately for the colonies, however, was the tempest which scattered and wrecked this great fleet and permitted the militia to return to their homes without having to meet the enemy.

Peace was declared in 1748, but the important question of territory on this side of the ocean was avoided in the treaty, and therefore while the two countries were nominally at peace, the war between their subjects here continued as if there had been no treaty.

In 1755, the year when the municipal charter was given to Charlton, war was again declared and Charlton patriotically sent her men to the front in two companies of Col. Timothy Ruggles' regiment. She began then to make preparation for the final struggle between the two nations. At a meeting of the citizens in June, it was voted to lay in a stock of powder, bullets and flints for her militia. Minute men were raised, officered and drilled for immediate action, and many other precautions were taken. On July 9th of that year came the news of the humiliating defeat of General Braddock; and the name of George Washington of Virginia, then a youth of twenty-three years, for the first time was brought to the general attention of the colonies, and even crossed the sea to Europe. Lord Halifax asked, "Who is this Mr. Washington?" From the unfavorable reports which the royal governors from time to time had been sending to the board of trade and plantations, representing the colonists as a turbulent, disloyal and altogether an uncouth and ignorant people, it was hard for those on the other side of the Atlantic to believe that any one of those colonists could be possessed of either talent or merit, but as the years passed by England began to learn more of "Mr. Washington," and to respect as well as to fear him.

In 1757 Captain Richard Dresser was put in command of Charlton men, and by a vote of the town, his

house was made the magazine and storehouse of ammunition and arms. In August of this year came the startling news of the capture of Fort William Henry by Montcalm, the surrender of Munroe's entire force of over 2200 men, and the massacre by the Indian allies of nearly 300 of the prisoners after they had capitulated. The colonists heard with shame and indignation that Webb, the timid English general commanding 6000 men at Fort Edward, only a few miles from Munroe, was overcome by fear, and instead of hastening to the assistance of the beleaguered force, had ignominiously prepared to retreat. His messengers implored frantically for reinforcements. Dispatches were forwarded to the several colonies for aid. The message received by the Governor of Massachusetts exhibits the terror which pervaded the hearts of the British officers. It read, "For God's sake exert yourselves to save a province; New York itself may fall; save a country; prevent the downfall of the British government!"

Demoralization existed everywhere. Those who lived west of the Connecticut river were ordered to drive in their cattle and destroy all of their wheeled vehicles; and Loudon, who had recently arrived at New York with his splendid fleet of sixteen ships of the line, many frigates of war, and 10,000 trained soldiers, instead of going forth to meet and overwhelm the enemy, proposed to intrench himself upon Long Island and in this manner save the country. In the meantime, Montcalm, satisfied with his victory, quietly retired unmolested to Canada with his force of 6000 French and Canadians and 1700 Indians.

Little wonder that the tidings sent to the colonies by the British officers caused dismay and fear to seize

upon the people. Militia were summoned from every township, and every able-bodied man armed himself and hastened to the rescue. The alarm reached here August 10th, and before the day closed Captain Dresser's company, reinforced by the citizens, set out upon their long march to the scene of action. They hurried on until they reached the town of Sheffield, about a hundred miles away, where they were notified that the fear had subsided, and they were turned back toward their homes. Later, in October of the same year, there was another alarm, and Captain John Larned of Oxford hastily called together his company, containing numbers of Charlton men, and marched them out as far as Westfield, upon what has been called the "minute expedition."

Upon the expedition against Canada in 1758, Captain Jonathan Tucker took Charlton men there with him; and there were Charlton men with Captain Jeremiah Learned at the battle and surrender of Ticonderoga and Crown Point in 1759, the year before the close of this war. The capture of Quebec, on September 13th, 1759, was the death-blow to French possessions in North America. Montreal was taken in 1760, and by the peace of Paris in 1763, France gave over to England all of her possessions east of the Mississippi. The war gave to the colonists military experience which proved invaluable in their subsequent resistance to Great Britain, and likewise it impressed strongly upon their minds the necessity of union.

They had but little time for rest after the settlement of their troubles with the French, before England began to oppress and attempt to deprive them of their liberties. In 1765 Parliament passed the stamp-act,

the news of which was received with a great burst of indignation, and the condemnatory resolutions prepared by Patrick Henry were approved throughout the land. "Sons of Liberty" were organized, and there was such popular resistance everywhere to the tyrannous measure that two regiments of regulars were sent to Boston in 1768 to awe the people into submission.

In September, 1769, James Otis was inhumanly beaten by British officers; and early in March, 1770, came the Boston massacre. News of these and further outrages spread rapidly among the people, and the citizens of Charlton, in common with the rest of the colony, began to prepare seriously for the inevitable struggle so plainly seen approaching. A committee of correspondence was organized by Samuel Adams, in order, as he clearly put it, "to state the rights of the colonists, and of this province in particular, as men and Christians, and as subjects; and to communicate and publish the same to the several towns, and to the world as the sense of this town (of Boston), with the infringements and violations thereof that have been, or from time to time may be made." His committee at once addressed the other towns of the province, and in response, on the 19th of August, 1773, our town of Charlton held a well attended meeting to consider what action should be taken upon the communication received. With unanimity and enthusiasm patriotic resolutions were framed and passed, and, fully agreeing with the advice given, a committee of correspondence was appointed from her ablest citizens. The committee consisted of Jonas Hammond, Richard Dresser, Nathaniel Blood, Ebenezer Hammond, Stephen Fay, John Dresser and Ebenezer Foskett.

The written reply, as drawn by the Charlton committee and adopted at this meeting, indicates the spirit which pervaded the entire province. Listen to its patriotic language and sentiment: "Gentlemen: We have taken into consideration the pamphlet sent us from Boston, wherein the rights and privileges of this province are clearly stated, and the infringements made thereon justly pointed out. We return our sincere thanks to the town of Boston for the vigilance and firmness in support of the country, which has been very conspicuous in that metropolis, and will heartily join in all such measures as may appear most conducive to the restoration of our invaluable privileges from the hand of oppression."

Men filled with such sentiments as these might well be intrusted to preserve the right of free government which their ancestors proclaimed. How temperate the tone of this communication. How clearly expressed, and yet with what firmness of resolve it is filled! Before the year closed more than eighty Massachusetts towns had organized similar committees, and they had begun upon their work.

The system of establishing committees of correspondence throughout the country proved to be a most wonderful help in the resistance to the tyrannous endeavors of Parliament. Its effect was so great that it was bitterly criticised and assailed by those who adhered to the King. The forceful Tory pamphleteer, Daniel Leonard, in his emphatic language, styled it "the foulest, subtlest and most venomous serpent ever issued from the egg of sedition." He believed it to be "the source of the rebellion," and stated that he "saw the small seed when it was planted; it was a grain of

mustard." He "watched the plant until it became a great tree." And Governor Hutchinson, in similar strain, said that the Boston committee was composed of "deacons, atheists and black-hearted fellows whom one would not care to meet in the dark." But Fiske, in his history of the American Revolution, looking back to what was accomplished by means of it, tells us that "the system of committees of correspondence did indeed grow into a mighty tree; for it was nothing less than the beginning of the American Union." This system, so successfully inaugurated between the towns of our province under the direction of Samuel Adams, was early adopted and established between the several colonies, and it continued throughout the entire period of the Revolution.

Among those patriots who threw overboard the three hundred and forty-two chests of tea, at the "Boston Tea Party," on December 17th, 1773, was he who became afterward one of Charlton's foremost citizens, John Spurr, then of Dorchester. England closed the port of Boston for this act, declaring that it should remain closed until the tea was paid for. In the way of additional punishment, General Gage promulgated an order forbidding all persons from attending town meetings, and, learning that one was called at Worcester, he threatened to break it up with his soldiers if it was attempted to be held in defiance of his orders. Nothing daunted by his threats, he was informed that his soldiers would be met by the militia of Worcester County should he attempt to interfere, and that any action he should take against the holding of their meeting would be at his peril; and, with quiet determination to defend their common rights, and to

be prepared for the emergency, the surrounding towns began to get together arms and ammunition. On September 12th, 1774, Charlton voted to purchase one hundred and fifty pounds of powder, three hundred pounds of lead for bullets, and fifty dozen flints; an indication that the response made to Gage was no empty threat.

Events were hastening on to the final crisis. The provincial assembly, having been forbidden to transact any business, met at Salem and organized itself into a provincial congress and adjourned to meet at Concord. Charlton, on October 10th, selected Captain Jonathan Tucker to represent her there, and at meetings on that day and in December, following advice of the Congress not to pay taxes to the treasurer appointed by Gage, and to render no assistance whatever to his troops, the town voted that it would furnish no implements, labor or other help to the British, and ordered the constables to pay over the taxes to Henry Gardner of Stow, to be used for the province under the direction of the Congress.

To show the fearless determination of this Congress, let me read the closing words of its resolutions: "No danger shall affright; no difficulties shall intimidate us; and if, in support of our rights, we are called upon to encounter even death, we are yet undaunted; sensible that he can never die too soon who lays down his life in support of the laws and liberties of his country." Who can say that our system of free government by the people has not been jealously guarded and stoutly defended?

We find constant evidence of the untiring activity of the town in aid of the cause of liberty. Captain



Tucker was again chosen to the Congress which met at Cambridge on February 1st, 1775, and bodies of minute men were organized, equipped, officered and drilled ready for instant call to resist every attempt to enforce the detested "Regulation Act" of Parliament, which deprived the people of every semblance of self-government. A committee of prominent citizens was appointed for the town, to see that the directions of the Continental and Provincial congresses were strictly adhered to. At this meeting it was voted also to protect the constables in collecting and paying over the tax raised under the direction of the Congress.

In England, Massachusetts was declared to be in rebellion, and ten thousand regulars were raised to be sent over to conquer the province by force, if it did not tamely surrender all its claims to liberty. General Gage despatched a force, on the night of April 18th, to Lexington, to seize Samuel Adams and John Hancock and capture military stores at Concord. Early the following day the first blood of the Revolution was shed on Lexington Green. By noon the alarm reached Worcester, and, shortly after, the minute men of Charlton were up in arms and hastening on their way to join in the struggle. The dreaded war had begun at last, and was destined to continue through seven long and trying years before it should end with complete independence.

In the face of the overpowering numbers and means arrayed against them, the colonies resolutely determined, like the heroic Boers of South Africa in their recent struggle for freedom, to make the cost of its downfall a terrible one, which would "stagger humanity" and prove a lesson to the world. All of the

colonists echoed the words of the eloquent Henry, that "there is no retreat but in submission and slavery."

On May 10th, Ticonderoga and Crown Point were captured with two hundred cannon and a large supply of military stores, which the colonies were in much need of. The militia, which had hastened on the 19th of April from nearly every town in the province to the assistance of their fellow patriots at Lexington, remained in camp at Cambridge and its vicinity and proceeded to invest Boston. Our Charlton companies performed good service there and rendered assistance in the erection of the several fortifications on the hills of Charlestown, Cambridge and Dorchester.

On the 17th of June the memorable battle of Bunker Hill was fought, with the glorious result of putting additional courage and confidence into the hearts of the colonists.

From this time forward Charlton did her utmost in aid of the resistance to the British. During the war, out of a population of about thirteen hundred only, she furnished upwards of three hundred men for the Continental army. Her soldiers participated in many of the most memorable battles. Under Lincoln and Schuyler and Gates they were at Freeman's Farm, and other conflicts, ending with Saratoga and the capture of Burgoyne. It is told that some were with Arnold and Montgomery in the heroic march and attack upon Quebec; and also that others were with Washington at Long Island and White Plains, at Trenton, Princeton and Brandywine, and at Valley Forge during the terrible winter of 1777.

While her soldiers were in the field, those at home were doing everything possible to aid them. Early in

1776 Daniel Streeter was sent to the army to distribute blankets. On June 17th, 1776, the anniversary of Bunker Hill, and two weeks before independence had been declared at Philadelphia, the town voted to support the Continental Congress in declaring the colonies independent of Great Britain, "to the extent of their lives and fortunes, if they thought it expedient." In 1777, on March 10th, a committee recommended that a bounty of £20, in addition to the bounty given by Congress, be raised "for good, able-bodied men to serve in this unnatural and unjust war." On February 2d, 1778, a committee was appointed to receive subscriptions for the Continental soldiers enlisted for the town, and to convey the amount to the men in the field. On March 2d of that year, another committee was selected with authority to provide for the families of Continental soldiers; and later, on April 2d, still another to provide shirts, stockings and shoes for men in the army. On March 1st, 1779, £900 was voted to provide for the families of soldiers, and in that year and the one following committees were appointed to see that the soldiers' families did not want.

Upon these many committees, which from time to time were chosen to act during the period of the Revolution, appear the names of the leading citizens of the town, many of whom were of the original settlers, now grown too old for active service in the field, but willing and desirous to do whatever lay in their power to assist the cause with which they had such deep sympathy. As an indication of their sincerity and patriotism, let us reflect upon the fact that this little hill town, in 1788, had paid in bounties £7912, in hard money, amounting to nearly \$40,000, in addition to all her ex-

penditures for arms, ammunition, blankets, clothing and shoes, and also in addition to her care of the needy families of soldiers. I doubt if this record can be excelled.

During the Civil War, Charlton did its full duty toward maintaining the integrity of the Union. She furnished two hundred and thirteen men for the army, which was eighteen more than her quota, and many of these gave up their lives for the cause, as may be seen by the inscription upon the monument to their honor which stands in front of this building. She paid liberal bounties and gave additional pay to the volunteers, besides a weekly allowance to their wives and minor children. Twenty-two thousand dollars was appropriated and paid out for her soldiers, exclusive of the sums contributed for state aid.

The attention and money of the inhabitants having been given to the defense of the colony in the time of its peril, the completion of their meeting-house was delayed until 1761, in which year, on January 6th, the first meeting was called in the new edifice. In May a call was extended to the Rev. Caleb Curtis to settle in the ministry, which call he accepted and he was duly ordained on October 15th. Here he remained in charge until he was dismissed by his own request in 1776. After the district had become a town, he was sent as a delegate to the Provincial Congress at Watertown. In 1787 he represented the town in the General Court, and he died in 1802, upon his farm, at the age of seventy-five years, much respected and beloved.

Ministers of the Gospel continued to be selected and supported by the town down to the year 1782, when the

law providing that towns should be obliged to support them having been repealed, by a vote of 106 to 55, in the negative, it was determined that in the future the moneys necessary for their support should be raised by free contributions from those who attended the services.

There are several buildings in Charlton wherein town and district meetings have been held since incorporation, and all of these but one, wherein three meetings only were held, stood within three hundred feet of this hall.

As before stated, down to the year 1761 all meetings, both civil and religious, were held at the house of Ebenezer Mackintire. On January 6th, 1761, the first meeting was held in the new meeting-house, which stood upon the common east of us, given by him for that purpose. This structure was 50 x 40 feet in dimension, shingled on the outside, and no doubt constructed with a hip roof in the ancient style, and without spire, tower or bell. It continued to serve as a town-house until November 15th, 1802, when the last business meeting was held there. It was while meetings were in this building that the Legislature separated the state from the church, and the church became obliged to depend for existence upon voluntary contributions. The next town meetings were held in the new Centre Congregational Meeting-house, erected in 1798 on the easterly side of the road upon which the first meeting-house stood. The town voted to pay for its use thirty dollars a year, on any days but Sundays, Fast and Thanksgiving days, and held its first meeting there on March 7th, 1803. During the latter year the old meeting-house was torn down. This third place of town

meetings continued to be so used until the close of the year 1816, which was about the time of the so-called "Unitarian Controversy." On March 3d, April 7th and May 5th, 1817, town meetings were called at the north side in the house owned by the Baptists, but this place proving to be inconvenient to many people, the hall over Major Spurr's brick store, to the north of us, was secured, and on March 2d, 1818, the first meeting there was held, and that hall was used by the town until 1822, when, having acquired a controlling interest in the "New Centre Meeting-house," it was styled the "Town House," and was again used for town purposes until April 1st, 1839. The Union Society was formed after 1830, from a union of the Unitarians at the Centre and the Universalists at the Northside, and, having come into possession of the rights in the building of the New Centre Congregational Society, it resolved to destroy the same and to erect a new and smaller one upon its site. This could not be done, however, without consent from the town, which caused much discussion, finally to be settled by an agreement whereby the town consented to construct a basement foundation suitable for town meetings and town business, when the society would build their meeting-house upon this foundation, and keep it in repair, or forfeit it to the town. The town was to receive, moreover, the sum of three hundred and thirty-three dollars toward the cost of the basement. One town meeting was held in the hall of the old Spurr Tavern in July, 1839, before the new house was ready for use. On November 11th, 1839, state election was held in the "New Town House," which has continued in service until the erection of this building.

The old tavern, wherein the first Charlton meetings were held, was taken down some fifty years ago and remodelled as a tenement house on the road leading from Southbridge to Sturbridge, where it may still be seen.

So many of her sister towns having passed her in population and wealth, what has the town of Charlton accomplished? Is there anything of which she may be particularly proud? She has no extensive factories or huge mills, for there is no adequate power to turn their wheels. Commerce has not brought to her wealth and luxury, for there is neither sea nor river upon which to construct great docks and wharves. Railroads do not cross and recross each other within her territory, making her a centre and depot, thereby bringing the business and prosperity which accompanies such good fortune. There are no fisheries upon her waters, no minerals in her soil. Being handicapped in these and many other ways, her people have been enticed away from her, and other towns have outstripped her in population and material prosperity. With all these drawbacks and limitations to her progress, what, then, has been left for her to produce?

I reply that in order to manage factories and mills; to build and steer the ships, and handle and dispose of their precious cargoes; to construct railroads, engines and cars, and to manage them and the passengers and freight which they convey; to dig and smelt the ores, and to fashion them into intricate machinery, implements and ornaments; to build up and govern great towns and cities; to fill the professions and to establish trade and commerce,—in fine, to do all which the advance of civilization demands, requires

men; and everywhere, in every profession, every trade, every employment they are in search of men, men of character, men of honesty, men of energy and strength, of determination and purpose. And here, among her quiet hills, Charlton mothers have been raising men of the good old New England type, inheriting her valuable traits, and educated in her ideas and traditions; and she has been sending them out over this broad land to fill required places and to reflect credit and honor upon herself. The sons and descendants of those early settlers, taught in the excellent school of privation, educated that it is honorable to labor, wise to economize; inheriting the strength of body, the vigor and acuteness of intellect, the courage and determination, the honesty and earnestness of their fathers, have gone forth to fill positions of trust and honor in larger fields. Of this, then, the town may well boast, and challenge others for comparison.

Let us give a moment's attention to an example among the numbers of these. On the ninth day of August in the year 1819, there was born at Charlton one to whose determination and persistency, in spite of obstacles sufficient to have discouraged most persons, the whole civilized world is, and for all time to come will continue to be deeply grateful and indebted. He was possessed of no overpowering intellect or great genius, was only an ordinary Charlton boy with the limited opportunities of her schools, but inheriting her valuable traits and educated in her ideas and traditions. As a youth of seventeen he went out into the world to carve his fortune. Carefully saving his hard earned money in mercantile pursuits, he added to his education and assumed a profession. Of this profes-



sion he held more than an ordinary love, and in it he determined to make himself known and felt. Its practice brought to his attention constantly the pain which attended minor surgical operations, which caused him to reflect upon the excruciating agony suffered by those compelled to submit to the severer ones under the knife. Soon he resolved to devote his time and opportunity, his energy, money and services to the attempt to relieve humanity from such torture. His pursuit of this aim became constant. He read, searched and enquired. He experimented and persevered, never disheartened by temporary failure, nor by the sneers and discouragements with which he was constantly met, until finally conquering every opposition, he proved to the world that the long sought for discovery of surgical anaesthesia was made, and that under the influence of his anaesthetic the severest operations were painless, and might be performed with safety, and even without the knowledge of the patient.

The Charlton boy to whom this great discovery is now conceded, was William Thomas Green Morton, a descendant of John Stevens, who came up from Essex County with the settlers and became one of the founders of the town, and the name of Doctor Morton will be upon the lips and in the grateful prayers of people in every civilized nation long after the memory of great conquerors, great statesmen, great rulers, has faded and been lost.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, in speaking of surgical anaesthesia, says it was first accomplished by "Doctor Morton, at the risk of his reputation, and with a courage and perseverance without which even had the idea of the possibility of such effects been entertained, the

world might have waited centuries or indefinitely before the result was reached." And with his usual poetical expression, describing its effect, he wrote: "The fierce extremity of suffering was steeped in the waters of forgetfulness, and the deepest furrow in the knotted brow of agony was smoothed forever."

Dr. R. M. Hodges said of him: "The lapse of time has but magnified and confirmed Dr. Morton's right to consider every human being his debtor." And upon the stone of his tomb, at quiet Mount Auburn, where repose the remains of this eminent son of Charlton, Dr. Jacob Bigelow has written this memorial epitaph:

"Inventor and revealer of anaesthetic inhalation  
Before whom in all time surgery was agony  
By whom pain in surgery was averted and  
annulled  
Since whom science has control of pain."

If Charlton has no other claim to fame and universal gratitude than the fact of having given to the world one whose conception, perseverance and courage first established the astonishing fact that a human being may pass under the terrible knife and saw of the surgeon with nerves untouched by the slightest feeling of torture; that the soldier, torn and mangled upon the field of conflict, may be wholly relieved of agony while his wounds are probed and cared for and his mutilated members removed; that the mother may pass in unconscious slumber through the perils of childbirth, to wake to her new happiness without one memory of its pain; and that the human body may undergo every condition without a single sensation of agony—that alone should place her in the front rank!

Of the efforts and success of many other sons of

Charlton, I might speak if time would permit. The name of Moses Dresser Phillips occurs to me, the founder of the important "Atlantic Monthly Magazine;" of Julius H. Ward, the eminent doctor of divinity, and for a long time literary editor of a prominent New England newspaper; of Alban N. Towne, of railroad fame, whose reputation extends from the eastern to the western coast; of Amasa Stone, another railroad man of fame; of Linus B. Comins and Phineas Jones, members of Congress; of Daniel Phillips, one of the organizers of the great Adams Express Company; of General Salem Town and General Spurr and "Squire" William P. Marble, and many others whose names will recur to you, whose struggles and achievements have brought renown to themselves and honor to the town of their birth.

Since the time when our country threw off the yoke of Great Britain, we have become a nation of eighty millions of people, and our territory has extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Behring Straits to the Gulf of Mexico. We have grown vast and powerful, and, particularly since the Civil War, we have increased wonderfully in prosperity. The growth of trade, the inventions in machinery, the fertility of the soil, and the discovery of minerals and in electrical appliances has put into the hands of individuals and corporations great and almost incomprehensible wealth and power. This favored country, our free institutions, the glorious liberty of self-government earned by the persistency and preserved by the blood of our ancestors, all are ours to enjoy and to preserve. And, in the words of Webster, to us is given the grave and important duty of transmitting these great blessings unimpaired to posterity.

Our cities have become crowded with people, attracted not alone from the rural districts, but many hail from distant lands where freedom and self-government are unknown, and where the blessings of such are still untaught. The city of New York exceeds in population that of the entire thirteen colonies in 1775. The possession of riches, and the greed developed in the rush of seeking for them, unfortunately has tempted many of our people to depart from the early ideas founded upon the great doctrines of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. No longer need we fear the wily Indian nor foreign foe; the present danger is from ourselves, who, in our prosperity, are inclining to allow the spirit of commercialism to overcome the principles of freedom upon which our country was founded, and which have been transmitted to us to preserve as a sacred trust.

Doctrines which would have sounded strange to our ancestors, of late have not only been justified but have been applied and are sought to be perpetuated. There is danger in this departure from the principles of the fathers. There is danger in this indulgence to the principles of greed. Repeating solemn words of warning recently spoken in the Senate of the United States, I say, "Our danger to-day is from the lust of empire." History warns us that the same temptation which now besets us, lured and brought to ruin the powerful ancient republics. May we be able to resist and avert that danger as we resisted and averted the peril of disunion.

Yes, while all the throned powers of the world are rejoicing over our vacillation, and are enticing us into an evil departure from the principles upon which our

government was founded, may a kind providence give us strength to resist and overcome this great temptation.

I hold a firm belief in the people, a belief that in the end we shall be able to avert the danger. Repeating the eloquent language of our lamented Senator Hoar: "I have an assured faith in the future. I have an assured faith in justice and the love of liberty of the American people. The stars in their courses fight for freedom. The Ruler of the heavens is on that side. If the battle of to-day go against it, I appeal to another day not distant and sure to come. I appeal from the clapping of hands and the stamping of feet and the brawling and the shouting, to the quiet chamber where the fathers gathered in Philadelphia. I appeal from the spirit of trade to the spirit of liberty. I appeal from the empire to the Republic. I appeal from the millionaire, and the boss, and the wire-puller, and the manager, to the statesman of the elder time, in whose eyes a guinea never glistened, who lived and died poor, and who left to his children and to his countrymen a good name far better than riches. I appeal from the present, bloated with material prosperity, drunk with the lust of empire, to another and a better age. I appeal from the present to the future and to the past."

These fervid words will go down in history with those of Burke and Fox, to both stimulate and restrain the youth of future generations.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Hopefully, then, we turn from the great centres of wealth and personal ambition, to the more serious and

thoughtful-minded citizens of the town, for the preservation and reassertion of the great principles of our government. Let us endeavor to keep continually in mind the great doctrines set forth in the Declaration of Independence: "The equality of the individual man with every other in political right. The right of every people to institute their own government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness, and so to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them."

May this edifice, placed so conspicuously upon the site of the early settlement, long stand for the purposes to which this day we dedicate it, as well as a reminder of the generous benefactor who has bestowed it. May it serve as a memorial of those priceless benefits which have been transmitted to us by our ancestors. May it ever keep before us the achievements of the founders of Charlton, and their sentiments of justice, of freedom and independence, and foster a resolve in us never to depart from their noble precepts and heroic examples. And, finally, may it constantly remind us of those glorious principles of liberty upon which were built the foundations of our national power and prosperity.

# APPENDIX









A. FREDERICK PUTNAM  
SELECTMAN

# The Town of Charlton.

## FROM WHENCE IT DERIVED ITS NAME.

[This article was kindly contributed by Walter Kendall Watkins, Esq.]

TRADITION has handed down to students and writers of the town histories of Massachusetts, during the last century, that it was the custom of the Provincial governors to fill in a blank space, left for that purpose in the incorporation of a town or district, with the name of some friend, patron or English locality in which they were interested.

I have made a collection of views and data of English localities whose names have been perpetuated in our New England towns.

From my notes on this subject I have formed the following theory on the naming of Charlton, Massachusetts :

William Shirley was governor in 1754, and engaged in treating with the Eastern Indians and exploring the Kennebec, where he erected two or three forts, and in 1755 was at Niagara and Oswego.

The lieutenant-governor was Spencer Phips of Cambridge, and in the absence of the governor it devolved on Phips to name the district. It was in 1754 that Phips' daughter, Mary, had married Richard Lechmere of Boston, and she afterwards inherited part of Phips' estate and gave to Lechmere Point its name. Richard Lechmere was the son of Thomas and Ann (Winthrop) Lechmere of Boston. The father,

Thomas Lechmere, was no less a person than "Surveyor-General of His Majesty's Customs in Northern District of America." This position he held through his influential connections in England, his uncle being Nicholas, Lord Lechmere of Evesham, who was succeeded in 1727 by Edmund Lechmere of Hanley Castle, another nephew and brother of Thomas of Boston. Edmund Lechmere married a daughter of Sir Blundell Charlton of Ludford, County Hereford, England. Sir Blundel was succeeded in 1742 by his son, Francis, who was one of His Majesty's Privy Chamber and Receiver-General of the Post Office in 1755. Sir Francis was succeeded by his nephew, Nicholas Lechmere, who took the Charlton name.

Of the localities in England bearing the name of Charlton there are no less than twenty, the best known being the parish of Charlton, Kent, on the borders of Blackheath, near London, between Greenwich and Woolwich.

## The Address.

THE committee in charge of the dedicatory exercises sought to secure a descendant of one of the first settlers and founders of the town to deliver the principal address, and their choice fell upon Judge McIntire of Cambridge, whose father, Ebenezer, was a native of Charlton and a lineal descendant in the fourth generation of the "Ebenezer Mackintire" of the first board of selectmen, at whose house the first town (district) meeting was held.

The following invitation was sent by the chairman of the committee, viz. :

" WORCESTER, Oct. 4, 1904.

HON. CHARLES J. MCINTIRE, Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mr. McIntire: Mr. William H. Dexter of this city, who was born in Charlton and is a descendant of the same McIntire family as yourself, is erecting in the town of Charlton a town hall and library building which will be completed and ready for dedication in April or May next. It would be very agreeable to Mr. Dexter and the people of Charlton if you would deliver the address upon that occasion.

If I am not mistaken, the building stands upon land originally owned by your ancestor, Ebenezer McIntire. It would seem particularly appropriate that a descendant of the first settler should be the principal speaker at the dedicatory services.

Very truly yours,

RUFUS B. DODGE."

## The McIntires, or "Mackintires," of Charlton.

THE McIntires who settled at Charlton were descendants of Philip Mackintire of Reading, Massachusetts, most of them through his son Daniel, who died at Salem in 1729.

About the time of the Revolutionary war many of the family began to abbreviate the name to McIntire and McIntyre. Before then it appears in nearly all the records as Mackintire, or Mackintier.

### PHILIP MACKINTIRE. (1.)

Philip Mackintire came, a youth, from Scotland and settled at Reading, Massachusetts, about 1648. He was born, probably at Argyle, about 1630, and the town records of Reading, and the Court files of Middlesex County, Volume 1, Births and Marriages, show that he married Mary, (surname not given,) August 6, 1666. He was a much respected citizen, and died at Reading at an advanced age, in December, 1719. His estate was settled by his son David, in the Middlesex Probate Court, No. 10295, old series. In Essex County court files of November 24, 1653, we find that Robert Mackintire, a witness in a trial, was then twenty-four years old and employed at the Lynn Iron Works. About 1650, Malcom (sometimes called Micom) Mackintire settled at York, Maine, where he

has left a large number of descendants. These three Mackintires, including Philip of Reading, were probably of the same family, perhaps brothers, and exported to this country by Cromwell among the prisoners of war taken at the battle of Dunbar or of Worcester, where over 10,000 Scotch Highlanders and other followers of Charles were captured and sent to the Colonies.

Philip's name appears in the list of inhabitants that drew land in the division of the "Great Swamp," Reading, in 1666, and in that year he paid ten shillings as a minister rate. In 1686 in a "Coppie of a rate made to be payd in money to be payd to the Indians for the purches of the town's land," we find him taxed; and in 1688 he appears as a contributor of £3, to a subscription for the new meeting-house. Shortly before his death he conveyed his homestead at Reading to his son David.

Philip's children, all born at Reading, were Philip (2,) b. Mar. 15, 1667, m. Rebecca Williams of Salem, Feb. 20, 1695. Thomas (3,) b. and d. 1668. Daniel (4,) b. Sept. 20, 1669, m. Judith Putney, daughter of John and Judith (Cooke) Putney, d. Salem Dec. 1729. Mary (5,) b. July 30, 1672, m. Thomas Rich of Salem, June 30, 1699. Sarah (6,) b. about 1677, m. Joseph Putney, May 18, 1697, and went to Oxford in 1728. John (7,) b. Mar. 20, 1679, m. Elizabeth Daniels of Watertown, Apr. 8, 1701. Thomas (8,) housewright, b. about 1680, m. Mary Moulton, dau. of Robert and Mary (Cook) Moulton, d. probably at Salem; no record of death. Samuel (9,) b. about 1682, m. Mary Upton of Reading, Oct. 15, 1706, d. after 1720. Jonathan (10,) b. about 1684, m. Mary Graves, Dec. 6, 1705, d. after 1720.

David (11,) b. June 12, 1688, m. Martha Graves, Sept. 4, 1712, d. after 1720.

#### DANIEL McINTIRE. (4.)

Daniel McIntire, son of Philip (1,) went from Reading to Salem about 1696, and had children, Daniel (12,) b. Salem, Aug. 1696, m. 1, Abigail Fraile, Nov. 21, 1716, and 2, Elizabeth Gleason, Feb. 9, 1734. He settled at Oxford and died there after 1750. Judith (13,) b. about 1698, m. John Moulton, Jr., March 13, 1721, and went to Oxford. Ebenezer (14,) b. Salem, 1700, went to Oxford in 1733, and was one of the founders and on the first board of selectmen of Charlton, d. at Charlton about March 29, 1776. [See in appendix, p. 71, the sketch of his life.] Thomas (15,) b. at Salem, d. young. Nathan (16,) b. Salem, about 1702, m. Jemima Ames, Nov. 29, 1723, and settled at Charlton. Abigail (17,) bapt. at Salem, Sept. 5, 1714. Daniel's (4,) son Ebenezer settled his father's estate in Essex County, probate records No. 18096.

#### THOMAS McINTIRE. (8.)

Thomas McIntire, son of Philip (1,) had children, Obediah (18,) b. about 1700, m. Sarah Upton at Salem, April 23, 1731, and settled at Charlton in 1728. Thomas (19,) b. Apl. 1, 1701, m. his cousin Mary McIntire, May 23, 1723, and settled at Charlton. Eleazer (20,) [both he and Obediah (18,) are ancestors of William H. Dexter, the donor of Charlton



town hall,] b. 1702, m. Martha ———, came to Charlton in 1754, d. 1792, at Charlton.

**DANIEL McINTIRE. (12.)**

Daniel McIntire, son of Daniel (4,) went from Salem to Oxford about 1730, preceding his brother Ebenezer by about three years. In a deed of land to his brother Ebenezer, dated Feb. 12, 1731, Essex deeds, book 60, page 199, he describes himself as of Oxford. He died after 1750. Had children, Daniel, Job, Noah and Abigail. [Noah was a soldier in the French and Indian War. See appendix, p. 73.]

**EBENEZER McINTIRE. (14.)**

Ebenezer McIntire, son of Daniel (4,) is the innkeeper, founder and member of the first board of selectmen of Charlton, and the ancestor of Charles J. McIntire, the present First Judge of the Probate Court and the Court of Insolvency of the County of Middlesex. [See appendix, page 71, for sketch of life.] Ebenezer married Ame, or Emma, Harwood, dau. of David Harwood, at Salem, May 23, 1728. He went to Oxford (Charlton) in 1733, and died there in March, 1776. His children were Ebenezer (21,) b. at Salem, 1729, m. Abigail Harwood, Dec. 1777, d. Charlton, June 18, 1789. Ezra (22,) b. at Salem, 1730, went to Oxford with his father, m. Elizabeth March, July 20, 1756, d. at Charlton, Aug. 1799. Ebenezer had three other children, viz.: Nathaniel, b. about 1757, d. 1789. Daniel, d. 1803, and Amy.

**OBEDIAH McINTIRE. (18,)**

Obediah McIntire, son of Thomas (8,) and ancestor of William H. Dexter, was born at Salem about 1700, m. Mary——, and went to Oxford 1727–28. His children were Miriam (23,) wife of Gardner McIntire, Jesse (24,) Obediah (25,) Ephraim (26,) Dorcas (27,) wife of Putney, Deborah (28,) wife of Nathaniel McIntire, Elizabeth (29,) wife of Eleazer McIntire, Jr., a son of Eleazer (20,) Mehitable (30,) wife of Daniel Alexander, and Sarah (31,) wife of Nathan Dennis. Obediah was a man of wealth, and one of the first board of selectmen of Charlton.

**ELEAZER McINTIRE. (20.)**

Eleazer McIntire, son of Thomas (8,) born at Salem, 1702, m. Martha ——, d. Charlton, 1792. Children, Eleazer, Jr., (32,) Mehitable (33,) and probably Elijah, who m. (1) Hannah Wilson, June 6, 1782, (2) Jerusha Carpenter, June 1, 1800, and (3) Eliza Goodell. Eleazer, Sr., went to Oxford (Charlton) about 1734. Was one of the school committee of Charlton.

**ELEAZER McINTIRE, Junior. (32.)**

Eleazer McIntire, Junior, son of Eleazer (20,) m. his cousin Elizabeth McIntire (29,) May 3, 1759. No record of death of either husband or wife. Their children were, Ithamar (34,) b. Mar. 27, 1760, d. unmarried. Elnathan (35,) b. Feb. 24, 1762, d. 1841. Stephanus (36,) b. Nov. 3, 1766. Elias (37,) b. July 7, 1769. Mehitable (38,)



JOHN G. HAMMOND  
SELECTMAN



b. Feb. 3, 1772, m. Jesse Burdon. Martha (39,) b. July 10, 1777, m. John Chard.

**ELNATHAN McINTIRE, (35.)**

Elnathan McIntire, son of Eleazer, Junior, (32,) b. at Charlton, Feb. 24, 1762, m. Martha Thompson of Dudley, Dec. 1780. She d. June 18, 1835. He d. Oct. 19, 1841. Children, Sally (40,) b. Dec. 22, 1781, m. Jabez Finch and went to New York. Miranda (41,) b. Dec. 23, 1784, d. young. Matilda, (42,) b. Jan. 13, 1787, m. George West, Oct. 1805. Diana (43,) b. Mar. 7, 1789, m. Salem Douty, Dec. 1, 1824. She d. Dec. 22, 1892, aged 103 yrs., 9 mos., 15 days. Darling (44,) b. Apl. 18, 1791. Lucinda (45,) b. Apl. 8, 1793, m. Feb. 12, 1818, John Dexter, and William H. Dexter is their son. Melinda (46,) b. Apl. 18, 1796, m. Jesse Brownell, Aug. 16, 1816.

**EZRA McINTIRE. (22.)**

Ezra McIntire, son of Ebenezer (14,) was b. at Salem, 1730, and went with his father to Oxford (Charlton) in 1733. He m. Elizabeth March, July 20, 1756, and d. at Charlton, Aug. 1799. His children were, Ezra (47,) b. Jan. 2, 1758. William (48,) b. Apr. 19, 1759, d. Nov. 10, 1764. David (49,) b. Aug. 9, 1762, d. before 1802. Ebenezer (50,) b. Mch. 21, 1765. Amy (51,) b. Aug. 20, 1767, m. Mar. 22, 1792, Daniel Marble. Amos (52,) b. Aug. 23, 1770, d. 1801. Ezra the senior, was one of the ablest men Charlton has ever had. During the Revolutionary War he

marched as a "minute man" on several alarms, served upon the committee of correspondence and safety and other important committees of the town, and at its close he was elected as its representative to the convention called in 1788, to ratify the constitution of the United States of America.

**EBENEZER McINTIRE. (50.)**

Ebenezer McIntire, son of Ezra (22,) b. Charlton, Mar. 21, 1765, m. 1st, Elizabeth, or "Betsey" Holman of Sutton, June 5, 1791, who d. 1807. m. 2d, Mary Bass of Ashford, Conn., June 11, 1809. She d. June 20, 1859. He d. Jan. 19, 1843. Children by 1st wife, Sally (53,) b. Feb. 6, 1792, m. Jeremiah Holman, Dec. 14, 1809. Mercy (54,) b. Oct. 23, 1793. Betsey (55,) b. Oct. 30, 1795. Naomi (56,) b. Dec. 29, 1797, m. James Green, Nov. 9, 1823. Fanny (57,) b. Feb. 28, 1800, m. ——— Fisher. Elizabeth (58,) b. Feb. 2, 1801, m. Elliot Converse, May 10, 1825. Ebenezer, Junior, (59,) b. Feb. 21, 1802, m. Amelia A. Landais, and d. Dec. 13, 1871, at Cambridge. He is the father of Judge McIntire. Children by 2d wife, Samuel Bass (60,) b. Jan. 13, 1812. Mary Lucy (61,) b. Jan. 12, 1814, d. 1871. Pamelia (62,) b. Jan. 21, 1815, m. S. Felton Shepard, d. at Worcester, Jan. 19, 1890. Lutina (63,) b. July 30, 1816, d. at Worcester, 1895. Harriet W. (64,) b. July 22, 1818, d. at Worcester, June 30, 1892. David (65,) b. May 15, 1819, d. at Worcester, Aug. 1894. Amos (66,) b. Aug. 8, 1822, d. in Illinois, about 1870.

# SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF EBENEZER MACKINTIRE

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE  
TOWN OF CHARLTON.

[From "Publication No. 4," of the Mass. Soc. of Colonial Wars.]

Ebenezer McIntire, or "Mackintire," as he spelled it without abbreviation, was one of the first settlers and founders of the town of Charlton, in Worcester county, Massachusetts, and in the course of time became a leading and influential citizen. He was the grandson of Philip Mackintire, who came from the Highlands of Argyll in Scotland to Reading, in this State, about the year 1648, probably with the great number of prisoners of war sent to this country by Cromwell after the disastrous battle of Dunbar, or of Worcester; and the son of Daniel Mackintire, of Salem, who was born at Reading, Sept. 20, 1669, and his wife Judith Putney. Ebenezer was born at Salem in 1700, and married there Amy Harwood, on May 23, 1728. About this time began a popular movement among the farmers of Essex county to take up the unoccupied fertile lands in the western portion of the town of Oxford. A company of six persons had purchased about 30,000 acres in 1713, and in 1730 a section of about 17,000 acres was conveyed by Thomas Freake, one of the company, to Freake Kitchin, the

wife of Edward Kitchin, of Salem, who divided it into parcels, or farm lots, and put them upon the market. Nathan and Daniel, brothers of Ebenezer, and also his Cousin Obadiah, bought some of this land, and moved upon it soon after the decease of the elder Daniel, which occurred in 1729; and Ebenezer, after settling his father's estate, could not remain long behind, so he followed them in October or November, 1733. The land which he purchased was in a central location, and he proceeded to erect thereon a substantial house, for the purpose of both a dwelling and tavern, which during the remainder of his lifetime was always kept open as a place of entertainment for strangers and travellers.

As the settlement grew in size and importance, the inhabitants became dissatisfied, from the fact that many of them were "more than ten miles from the meeting-house," far from the schools and pound, yet that they were "always taxed to all the charges of the town" (of Oxford); and Ebenezer was among the foremost who urged for separate government. In 1754 he became one of the petitioners to the General Court, to set off their portion as a distinct town or district. The petition was granted, and on Feb. 10, 1755, the warrant which issued for the first town meeting warned the freeholders of the district of Charlton "to meet at the dwelling-house of Ebenezer Mackintire." The meeting was duly held on March 12, and Ebenezer was chosen a member of the first board of selectmen. All of the subsequent town meetings, as also the church gatherings, were held at his house down to the year 1761, when the meeting-house was completed. On Jan. 16, 1758, it was voted, in town meeting, that the meeting-house "should be located at the place of a stake a little



north of Ebenezer Mackintire's house." In February, 1759, he gave the land, with sufficient in addition for the purpose of a common and training field. His deed of this plot was not executed, however, until Dec. 17, 1766, after the meeting-house was completed. In it he recites that, "In consideration of the love and good-will I do bear to the said District of Charlton, and to the inhabitants thereof, . . . I do freely, fully and absolutely give, grant, bargain, aliene, convey and confirm . . . , being the spot where the meeting-house in Charlton now stands . . . to be for the use of said district for their meeting-house to stand upon and for a training-field, and no other use," etc. In the town records Charlton is called a "District" down to the summer of 1775. On March 12, 1764, he also presented to the town an acre of land, near the centre, for a burial-ground, and this, with subsequent additions, is still used as a cemetery. It contains his remains and also those of many of his descendants. He further gave the land for a town pound.

During the French and Indian war on the rolls of soldiers who shared the glories and hardships of the several expeditions sent forth are found the names of many Charlton men, among these a number of the descendants of Philip Mackintire, of Reading. In 1756, in Massachusetts Archives, we find that Noah McIntire, of Charlton, a private in Captain Philip Richardson's Company, Colonel Timothy Ruggles' Regiment, was taken sick in camp at Lake George; and in August, 1757, in Captain Richard Dresser's Company, which marched from Charlton on the alarm for the relief of Fort William Henry, there were nine McIntires, among whom was our Ebenezer, and two of his sons, Ebenezer, Jr., and Daniel. We find

him styled, in the town records of March 18, 1765, "Lieutenant Ebenezer McIntire," but no record of his commission as lieutenant can now be found. Tradition says of him that he was considerably more than six feet in height, and possessed of great strength of body and character. His walking-stick now in existence, goes far toward proving the assertion as to his height, and his character is shown by the many positions of trust confided to him, beginning at the time when, though not the eldest son, he was made administrator of his father's estate, down to the time of his death. He was a natural leader of men, and the records of the town of Charlton show constantly the confidence which his fellow-citizens placed in him, by elections to offices and appointments upon committees, which this sketch will not permit to give in detail. He died in March, 1776, in the second year of the Revolutionary war; but not until he had lent his voice and encouragement toward the vigorous prosecution of the rights of the people. In the year 1773 he took active part in the town meetings, where patriotic resolutions were presented and adopted. He lived also long enough to see his son Ezra, already a prominent citizen, appointed, Jan. 9, 1775, a member of the "Committee to see that the direction of the Continental and Provincial Congresses were strictly adhered to." He had his soul stirred by the alarm of Lexington and Concord, when this same son marched with his Charlton company of minute men to aid in repelling the British forces. Two other sons were likewise minute men of the Revolution, and a grandson became a continental soldier, serving the greater portion of the war. His son Ezra was later chosen, and served throughout the war, as one of the "Committee of Correspondence and

Safety" of the town, and after peace was declared, having succeeded his father in the esteem and confidence of his townspeople, was elected and acted as their representative to the convention, called in 1788, to ratify the Constitution of the United States of America.

Worcester County Deeds, IV., 452; LVI., 317.

Charlton Town Records, 1755, 57, 58, 59, 64, 73.

Mass. Archives, LXXVII., 17; XCV., 519; XII., 38.

See Petition to the General Court, 1754, by the Inhabitants of Charlton District.

Worcester County Deeds, Book 56, page 317.

Town Records, March 12, 1764.

Hurd's History of Worcester County, 1889, Vol. I., pp. 754 and 755.

Records of the Mass. Convention of 1788, to ratify the U. S. Constitution.

## William H. Dexter.

William H. Dexter, (1,) to whom the town of Charlton is so greatly indebted for its beautiful town hall and library building, was born at Charlton January 11, 1823, and married Eliza A. Foss in 1847. He is sixth in descent from Philip McIntire of Reading, through Eleazer, as follows :

2. John Bradford Dexter, 1795-1867. Lucinda McIntire, 1798-1865.
3. Elnathan McIntire, 1762-1841. Martha Thompson, 1761-1835.
4. Eleazer McIntire, Jr. Elizabeth McIntire.
5. Eleazer McIntire, 1702-1792. Martha Putney.
6. Thomas McIntire, 1680. Mary Moulton.
7. Philip McIntire, 1630-1720. Mary ———.

He is likewise sixth in descent from Philip, through Obediah McIntire, father of Elizabeth, as follows :

2. John Bradford Dexter, 1795-1867. Lucinda McIntire, 1798-1865.
3. Elnathan McIntire. 1762-1841. Martha Thompson, 1761-1835.
4. Elizabeth McIntire. Eleazer McIntire, Jr.
5. Obediah McIntire, 1700. Mary ———.
6. Thomas McIntire, 1680. Mary Moulton.
7. Philip McIntire, 1630-1720. Mary ———.

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HON. RUFUS B. DODGE

## Rufus B. Dodge.

1. Rufus Brown Dodge, ex-mayor of Worcester, Massachusetts, is a native of Charlton, his father having been town clerk and filled other important offices of trust there. Rufus is now a leading lawyer of the county. He was born November 24, 1861. Married Mary Cochran Perry, July 7, 1887, and is one of the foremost citizens of Worcester. He is a descendant of Philip McIntire of Reading, as follows:

2. Rufus Brown Dodge, b. Charlton, Feb. 9, 1821, m. April 18, 1847, Augusta Morse of Charlton, d. Oct. 15, 1900.

3. Gibbs Dodge, b. Charlton, June 5, 1789, m. 1st, Jan. 10, 1810, Polly Wakefield, m. 2d, April 19, 1819, Polly Wakefield, (cousin of first wife and mother of Rufus B.,) d. Charlton, July 10, 1863.

4. Moses Dodge, m. Tryphena McIntire (who was born Apl. 3, 1767,) d. Charlton, Feb. 21, 1826.

5. Mary McIntire, daughter of Nathan, b. about 1735, m. Nov. 6, 1756, Robert McIntire of Dudley, b. about 1734, d. Mch. 12, 1813. She d. Oct. 5, 1798, at Charlton.

6. Nathan McIntire, (16,) b. Salem, 1702, went to Oxford, m. Nov. 29, 1723, Jemima Ames, and d. after 1731.

7. Daniel McIntire, (4,) b. Reading, Sept. 20, 1669, m. Judith Putney, went to Salem and d. there in Dec. 1729.

8. Philip McIntire, (1,) b. Scotland, about 1630, came to this country and settled at Reading about 1648, m. in 1666, Mary, (surname unknown), d. at Reading in 1720.

# Historical Points.

## TOWN MEETINGS, TOWN HALLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

[The following facts concerning town meetings were kindly furnished by Mr. M. Daniel Woodbury.]

THE first town meeting (or District Meeting) was held at the house of Ebenezer McIntire, and from then all meetings were called to be held at his house until the meeting-house was built and completed. The last meeting at his house was on May 26th, 1760. The first held in the meeting-house was on Jan. 6, 1761. This structure was 50 feet long and 40 feet wide, with both roof and walls shingled. It had no bell, and neither tower nor belfry. Like the oldest school-houses in the town, some of which date back to the early years of the last century, it had probably a "hip roof."

Town meetings were held in the first meeting-house from 1761 until 1802. The meeting called for Nov. 1, 1802, was adjourned to Nov. 15, 1802, which latter date was the last time the people met for public business in the original meeting-house. It stood on the land at the Centre which Ebenezer McIntire gave for a meeting-house and training field; and the road ran by its easterly side.

The town ceased to support the minister by a tax levy sometime between 1780 and 1785, and a religious society was formed soon after. In 1797 or 1798, the society was incorporated by the name of "The Proprietors of the New Centre Congregational Meeting-house." This society bought land of



John D. Dunbar and proceeded to build a large house of worship, with a hundred pews on the floor. It was placed on the east side of the road facing the old first meeting-house. When completed the town voted to pay the proprietors \$30 per year for the privilege of using it for town business on any day excepting Sundays, Fast days and Thanksgiving days.

The first town meeting called in this new edifice was held Mar. 7, 1803. The old meeting-house was torn down and removed during the same year.

Town meetings continued to be held in the new meeting-house until sometime in the year 1816, about the time of the so-called "Unitarian Controversy." After this for several years the meetings were held as follows: Mar. 3, 1817, April 7, 1817, and May 5, 1817, in the "North" Meeting-house, belonging to the Baptists at the Northside. At the last of these meetings a committee was chosen to examine the hall in Maj. John Spurr's brick store, and a town meeting was called there Mar. 2, 1818, and meetings were subsequently held there until 1822.

For sometime prior to 1822 the town debated the question of buying the Centre Meeting-house for a "Town House." One of the strongest arguments advanced was, that if it owned the meeting-house the opposing religious factions might be united and brought to work in harmony. In 1822 the town acquired a controlling interest in the Centre Meeting-house, and although it retained its interest but a short time meetings were called at what was designated in the call as the "Town House" from 1822 until 1839.

April 1, 1839, was the last meeting in the "Town House."

This "Town House" was the "New Centre Congregational Meeting-house" of 1803, as shown by the town records.

Some time after 1830 a union was effected between the Unitarians at the "Centre" and the Universalists at the "Northside," and a society was formed, styled the "Union Society," whereupon the society decided to take down the Centre Meeting-house and rebuild a smaller one upon the same site. The town still had its rights in the house and lot, and it was not until after resistance and considerable discussion that an agreement was reached with the Union Society whereby the town would build a foundation suitable for a basement hall and rooms in which to hold town meetings and do town business, and the society would place over this, upon the foundation, a meeting-house for religious purposes, and keep the same in repair. If the society failed to do its part it would forfeit the whole to the town. In addition the society paid to the town \$333 toward the expense of the foundation.

In July, 1839, while this work was in progress, a town meeting was called to be held in the "hall of James Lamson, Innholder." This was the hall of the old "Spurr Tavern."

On Nov. 11, 1839, the annual election was had in the "new Town House," which is the church basement "Town Hall," and where, until the completion of the Dexter Town Hall, town meetings were continuously afterwards held. It was the northwest corner of this basement town hall which was partitioned off to form a town office which was called the "Selectmen's Room." Here was done the town business, and here the town records were kept for many years. In 1885, the library which the town had acquired from the "Young Men's





BELLEVUE HOUSE  
FORMERLY STANDING ON THE SITE OF DEXTER MEMORIAL HALL

Library Association," and which it had agreed to maintain as a "Free Public Library," had increased so largely that it demanded more room, and in consequence the upper story of the schoolhouse at the Centre was so arranged that a part was used for the accommodation of the library and the rest for a "Selectmen's Room." Since 1885 the town made no use of the old "Selectmen's Room" in the church, excepting that for a few years a lockup was maintained there, two cells with iron gratings having been constructed for that purpose.

The new "Dexter Memorial Hall" stands upon the lot whereon formerly stood the "Spurr Tavern." The east line of the lot forms the west line of the old first "Meeting-house lot" (the lot given by Ebenezer McIntire). It is nearly opposite the Universalist Meeting-house under which was the "Town Hall."

In front of the north end of the "Dexter" hall is the site of the old "Spurr Tavern," afterwards known as the "Bellevue House," and in front of the south end stood the "tavern barn." On the lot adjoining at the north stands the store built on the site of Spurr's "Brick Store," and on the lot adjoining at the south stand the buildings of Benjamin Burlingame. Burlingame's house was built by William Weld, and it was known for years as "Weld's Tavern." Later, for many years, it was owned by David F. Craig, and known as the "Craig Place" or "Craig's Hall."

The house known as the "tavern" of Ebenezer McIntire, and where the first town meeting was held, stood on the same site and was removed a short distance at the time Weld built the present house. Afterward, sometime in the fifties, it was taken down and reconstructed as a two-tenement house on

the road leading from Southbridge to Sturbridge, where it still stands.

## MILITARY HISTORY.

Charlton settlers had no troubles with the Indians of the Province, who had become completely subdued and disheartened after "Lovewell's Fight" at Pequawet in 1725; but they shared in the general excitement attending the declaration of "King George's War" in 1744, the capture of Louisburg in 1745, and its surrender again to the French under the treaty of 1748.

The roll of soldiers from Charlton who saw service in the Revolutionary War reads like a multiplied list of the taxpayers of the town when it was incorporated, and it contains the names of descendants of nearly every family of original settlers. The records show that in Col. Larned's regiment at Roxbury from April 17 to Dec. 26, 1775, she furnished 41 men, and in Col. Wm. Campbell's regiment, 28. During the month of December, 1775, 30 more men were furnished as recruits. In 1776, 40 enlisted for one year. In March, 1777, 48 men were raised to complete the quota, and in August of that year 36 marched to Rhode Island in the company of Capt. Abijah Lamb. In 1780, 24 were drafted into the regular service. Jacob Davis, Reuben Davis, John Nichols, Samuel Curtis, and Abijah Lamb were captains; Jonathan Tucker, Wm. Tucker, David Rich and Robert Kelley, lieutenants.

As late as 1829, the Rev. John Wilder, in an address, or sermon, mentioned the names of sixteen Continental soldiers of Charlton whom he had personally known, four of whom





CHAUNCY W. PIKE  
SELECTMAN



were then living, and one present to hear the address. The names which he gave were John Thompson, Elijah Thompson, James Morey, Moses Morey, Benjamin Morey, Ebenezer Town, Eleazer Bemis, Jesse Smith, Jonathan Bemis, Jonathan Goodell, Elisha Ward, Peter Lamb, Naham Lamb, Jacob Town, Solomon Jones, and Benjamin Hobbs. Charlton minute men also went forth on the alarms of April 19, 1775, Dec. 10, 1776, and July 29, 1780.

### CHURCH DELINQUENTS.

Thomas McIntire of Charlton (see address, p. 26,) a brother of Obediah and Eleazer, came up from Salem in 1734 and took a farm. In 1741 he was summoned before the Court of Sessions to answer to a charge of absenting himself from church worship. In making his defence he stated that he lived at a very great distance from the meeting-house, and that the roads were in such bad condition that it was almost impossible for him to get there from his home; but he was held to pay the costs of the prosecution amounting to three pounds and sixteen shillings. Subsequently his name appears upon the petitions to the General Court to set off Charlton from Oxford, and he became one of the most active among those who sought to create a new town.

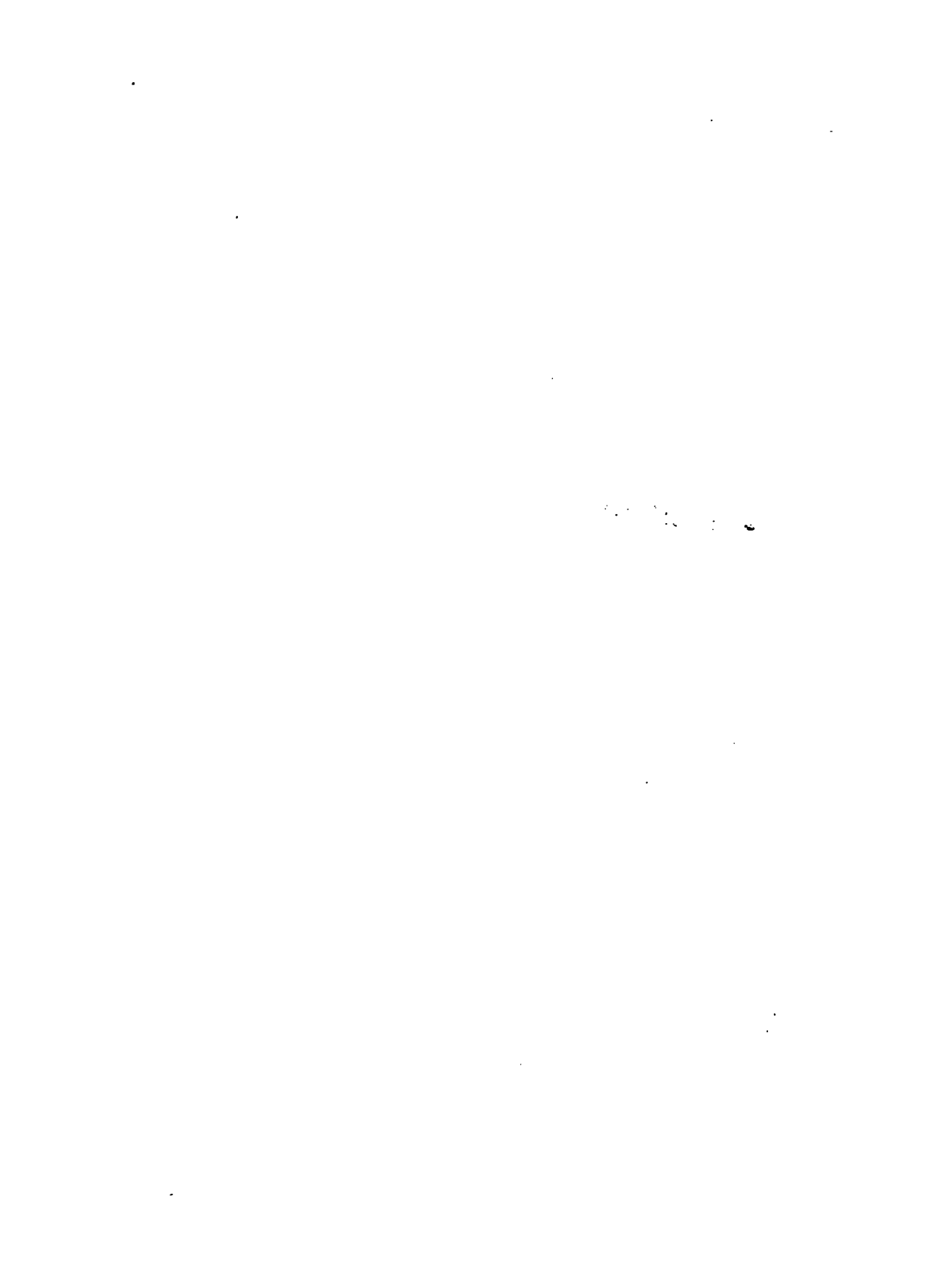
Ebenezer Humphrey in 1738 was fined for absenting himself from public worship, and in 1742 was fined again for the same offence. He was a son of Arthur Humphrey, and was born at Woodstock, Conn., Aug. 22, 1692. He had been a constable, and, in 1734 and 1735, a selectman of Oxford. His son Ebenezer, born in 1741, was a captain in

the war of the Revolution and took part in the capture of Burgoyne in 1777.

### CHARACTER OF HER CITIZENS.

The early inhabitants of the town were fair types of the people of the whole province, who never would surrender in the slightest degree the ancient liberties to which they asserted themselves to be entitled. The royal governors, having very lofty views of the kingly prerogative, were exceedingly annoyed at the independence exhibited upon all occasions, and in their reports to the Privy Council they said that the people were factious and disobedient to the laws, and further that their heads were turned by political crotchets. Many schemes were submitted whereby to limit the power of the people; but it was Gov. Shirley who devised the cunning method of a "stamp-duty" that Parliament might impose in order to meet the expenses of the French and Indian War, and he is entitled to the credit of pushing the colonies into the open rebellion and revolution which culminated in their complete independence. "No taxation without representation," was the memorable principle then announced, and the world stands indebted to America, and incidentally to Gov. Shirley, for establishing this great moral principle, which the sophistries of modern commercialism never will be able to permanently shake.



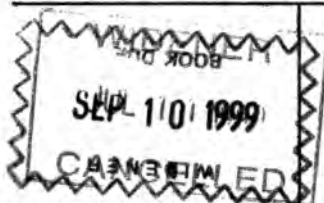




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